

REMARKS

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed on April 9, 2007. Further, this communication follows an interview conducted on July 24, 2007 between Examiner Lovel and Applicant's representatives Chris Holt and Chris Volkmann. In the Office Action, claims 1-10, 13, 15, 17 and 19 were pending and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 1, 3, and 6 have been amended and claims 9, 13, 15, 17, and 19 have been cancelled. Further, new claims 20-28 have been added. For the reasons that follow, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Interview

On July 24, 2007, Applicant's representatives Chris Holt and Chris Volkmann conducted an interview with Examiner Lovel. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for her time and consideration in conducting the interview. During the interview, dependent claim 9 was discussed. The Examiner indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if limited to N is greater than 3.

II. Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §103

On page 9, claims 13, 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crooks et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0078366, hereinafter "Crooks") in view of Hammond. On page 14, claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Franz in view of Bates et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0205672, hereinafter "Bates"), and further in view of Hammond. It is noted that these claims have been cancelled herewith, thus making these rejections moot.

On page 3, claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammond (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0088547) in view of Even (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,399). On page 6, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammond in view of Even, and further in view of Franz (U.S. Patent No. 7,027,987). Further, on page 7, claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammond and Even, and further in view of the article "College Algebra Tutorial 57:

Combinations" by WTAMU (hereafter "WTAMU").

For the reasons that follow, it is submitted that claims 1-8 and 10, and new claims 20-28, are allowable over the cited references.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate features similar to the previous claim 9. Claim 1, as amended, recites "receiving an input string that incorporates a plurality of characters and at least two intervening spaces, wherein the input string includes N words and N is greater than 3" and "concatenating the plurality of characters to form additional terms, wherein the additional terms are (N-1)(N/2) combinations of words selected from the N words based on word adjacency."

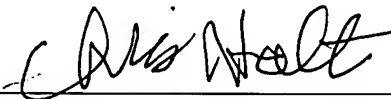
Further, new claims 20-28 have been added and are directed to subject matter similar to previous claim 9. New independent claim 20 recites "forming a number of additional terms, wherein the number of additional terms is (N-1)(N/2) combinations of words selected from the N words based on word adjacency" and new independent claim 26 recites "generating (N-1)(N/2) additional search terms, wherein each of the additional search terms is formed by eliminating some or all of the intervening spaces, and wherein each additional search term is a combination of words in the N words that are adjacent to one another."

During the interview, the Examiner indicated that these current claims would be allowable. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims, namely claims 1, 2-8, 10, and 20-28, are in allowable form. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: 
Christopher L. Holt, Reg. No. 45,844
900 Second Avenue South, Suite 1400
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

CLH:cjv:rdg